

Increase Student Motivation with Universal Design in Mind

In this session, we will learn about how to apply universal design for learning (UDL) and inclusive teaching strategies to ensure that language learners receive meaningful and accessible instruction that recognizes the diverse strengths and weaknesses that students bring to the classroom.

This presentation will:

- explore how incorporating a UDL approach can lead to classroom instruction that fosters creativity and student autonomy, while increasing learners' motivation.
- provide a set of tools that EFL teachers can use to accommodate diverse student populations ensuring that all learners can demonstrate their understanding of classroom content.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE



Rosa Dene David



Rosa Dene began her teaching career in Bolivia, and since then she has taught in Colombia, Mexico, South Korea, and the United States.

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Today we will...

- Define Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Identify the types of learners that UDL can support
- Experience and reflect on why students sometimes struggle in the language classroom
- Develop an understanding of three UDL principles
- Explore activities and strategies for applying UDL principles in the EFL classroom



What types of learning challenges do students face in the EFL classroom?

(Hint: Think about limitations or barriers to learning that both “strong” and “weak” students might face.)



What is Universal Design for Learning (UDL)?



Universal Design for Learning:
an approach that uses a variety
of teaching methods to remove
barriers that students might
have in the classroom, while also
creating equal opportunities for
students to succeed.



Which students does UDL serve?



All students!

Including students with...

- ✓ Physical impairments
- ✓ Learning differences
- ✓ Attention issues
- ✓ And all others





What types of activities or parts of a language class might be especially challenging for Freddie?



**Please take out a
pen or pencil and a
piece of paper.**



Directions

Step 1:

Copy the text using only the hand that you do NOT normally write with.

- If you are right-handed, write with your left hand.
- If you are left-handed, write with your right hand.

Step 2:

Cover your opposite eye with your free hand while you write.



Ready

A core concept of the UDL approach is that educational institutions need to reduce the barriers that impede access to materials while at the same time provide flexibility in how students achieve their goals. The universal design approach allows instructors to think differently about teaching because it removes the focus from the individual learner and his or her "ability" to master the material and instead requires instructors to provide a variety of acceptable formats through which each student may engage the material.



Please, put your pen or pencil down...

Let us know in the chat if you copied the whole text.

If not, tell us why this task was difficult.





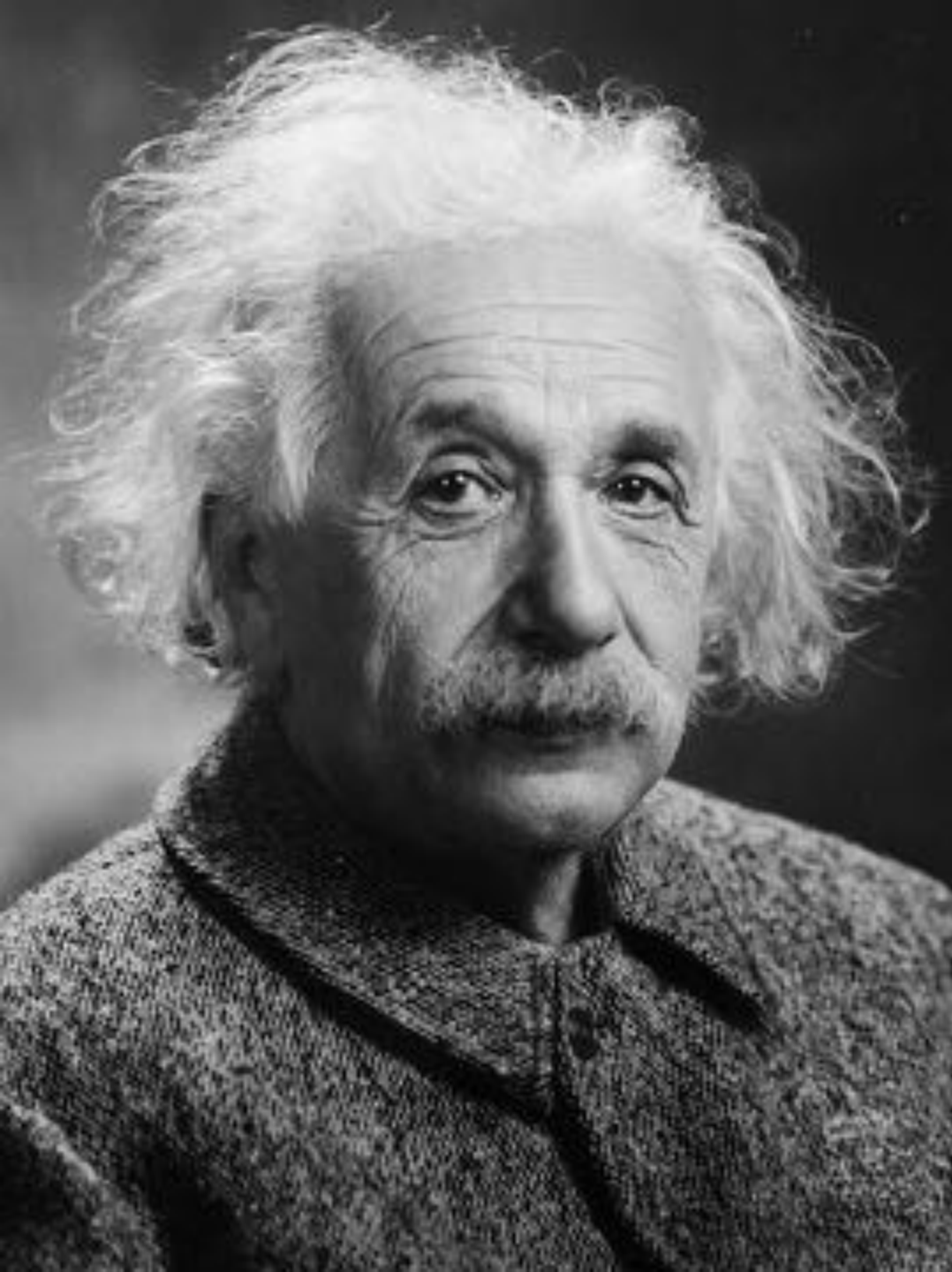
How did this
activity make you
feel?

**Does anyone remember
what they read?**



A core concept of the UD approach is that educational institutions need to **reduce the barriers that impede access to materials** while at the same time **providing flexibility in how students achieve their goals.**

The universal design approach allows instructors to think differently about teaching because it **removes the focus from the individual learner and his or her “ability” to master the material** and instead **requires instructors to provide a variety of acceptable formats through which each student may engage the material....**



“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it is stupid.”

- Albert Einstein

UDL was born from the idea that....



UDL creates a window of opportunity



EQUALITY



EQUITY

UDL: Three Core Principles

1. Provide multiple means of representation

Teachers present and practice language-learning content and information in a variety of ways

Focus: deliver learning content in diverse ways to develop knowledge and skills

2. Enable multiple means of action and expression

Teachers enable students to engage with content and demonstrate their learning in more than one manner

Focus: allow students to show what they know or can do in different ways

3. Support multiple means of engagement

Teachers understand that different factors motivate individual students to learn; they use diverse instructional approaches

Focus: foster motivation and commitment to learning

Principle 1: Provide multiple means of representation

Provide access



Provide guided practice and support



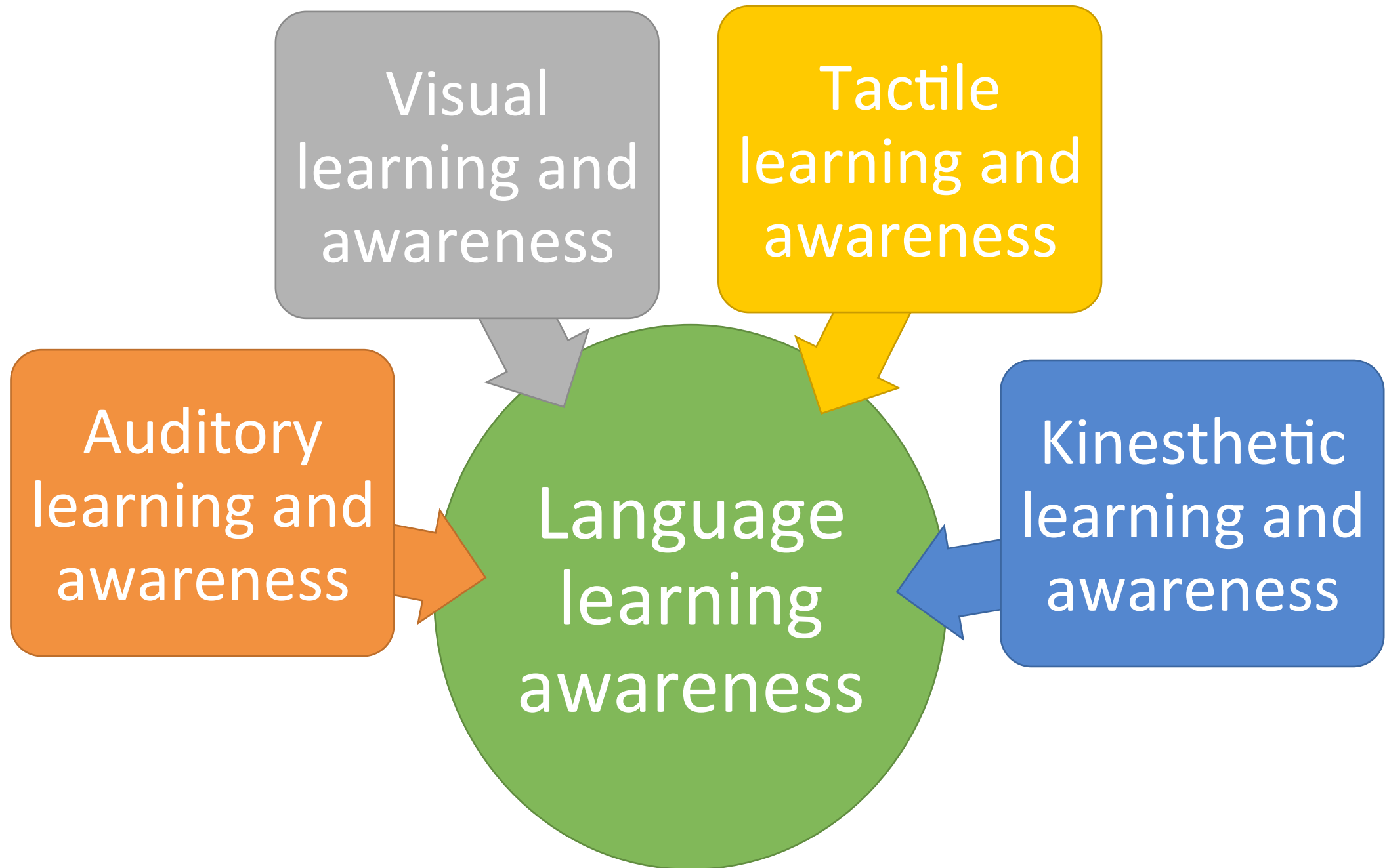
Encourage independence



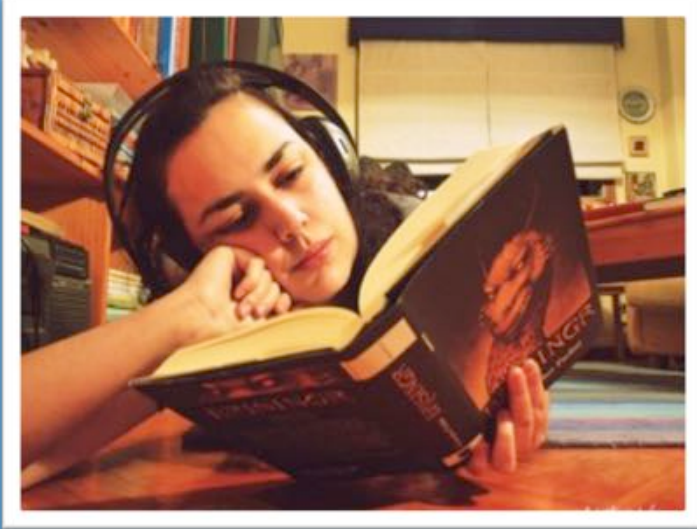
- Present language learning information in different ways

Example: Students watch an English-language movie with English subtitles on

Goal: develop knowledgeable learners



Provide all students with access to visual support, while listening to texts



Audio books
and recordings



Text-to-speech software



Peer reading

Principle 2: Enable multiple means of action and expression

Provide access



Provide guided practice and support



Encourage independence



- Offer different paths to achieve the same learning goal
- Vary response formats (output)

Example: One student might choose to take a written test, while another one might choose to do an oral presentation

Goal: develop confident, goal-directed learners

**If we know our students
experience learning
differently, then why
shouldn't we give them
choices?**



Provide students assignment options



CREATE YOUR OWN PIZZA CALORIES ARE LISTED PER SLICE

CHOOSE YOUR SIZE & CRUST

Size	Calories	Price
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8 SLICES M		\$11.99
10 SLICES L		\$18.99
12 SLICES XL		\$15.99

THIN & CRISPY
PAN
ORIGINAL

CHEESE PIZZA
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PAN (260-300 Cal.), GLUTEN FREE* (140 Cal.)
*ONLY AVAILABLE IN SMALL

CHOOSE YOUR SAUCE*

TOMATO SAUCE (10 Cal.), SPICY MARINARA (10 Cal.), WHITE GARLIC SAUCE (30-50 CAL.), BBQ (10-20 Cal.)

CHOOSE YOUR TOPPINGS*

Size	Price
S	\$1.00
M	\$1.50
L	\$2.00
XL	\$2.25

MEATS
BACON (45-60 Cal.), BEEF (40-45 Cal.),
CHICKEN (15-20 Cal.), HAM (10-15 Cal.),
PEPPERONI (25-35 Cal.), SALAMI (25-30 Cal.),
ITALIAN SAUSAGE (40-50 Cal.)

VEGGIES
BANANA PEPPERS (0-5 Cal.), GREEN PEPPERS (0 Cal.),
JALAPENOS (0-5 Cal.), FRESH MUSHROOMS (5 Cal.),
BLACK OLIVES (10-15 Cal.), FRESH ONIONS (0-5 Cal.),
PINEAPPLE (10 Cal.), ROASTED RED PEPPERS (0 Cal.),
FRESH BABY SPINACH (0 Cal.), TOMATOES (5 Cal.)

2,000 CALORIES A DAY IS USED FOR GENERAL NUTRITION ADVICE, BUT CALORIE NEEDS VARY
ADDITIONAL NUTRITION INFORMATION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
*ADDED CALORIES FOR 1 TOPPING PIZZA

Example of assignment options for a speaking assessment



Poster presentations



Podcast and video presentations



Group presentations

Principle 3: Support multiple means of engagement

Provide access



Provide guided practice and support



Encourage independence



- Plan to incorporate your students' interests, individual choice, and collaboration in your instruction

Example: Give students opportunities to collaborate and share ideas in order to create a positive learning environment

Goal: develop purposeful, motivated learners

Facilitate collaboration



Group work



Debates and team work



Pair work

Group work provides the teacher with the opportunity to informally assess students, give feedback, and provide additional support

Learning stations or learning centers



Stations provide students with the foundation to develop agency and autonomy

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2. Enable multiple means of action and expression

Focus: allow students to show what they know or can do in different ways

3. Support multiple means of engagement

Focus: foster motivation and commitment to learning



**Remember to keep Universal Design
for Learning in mind because....**



Tell me, and I'll forget.
Show me, and I may
remember. Involve me,
and I'll understand."

- Chinese Proverb



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Thank you!

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